

# ASTEPAHEAD

custom guided journeys

## FOREST & SERENGETI PLAINS

### TANZANIA - 11 DAYS GREEN SEASON - DECEMBER TO MARCH

This 11-day safari offers the best of northern Tanzania when the great migration spreads out on the famous Serengeti Plains. Accommodation is in either seasonal or exclusive tented camps and in stylish high-end lodges. We begin in Arusha, then travel westwards to the Ngorongoro Crater, before continuing to the vast Serengeti Plains, renowned for the Great Migration. We fly back to Arusha at the end



#### 11-DAY ITINERARY - DECEMBER TO MARCH - Key to meals included - B=Breakfast, L = Lunch, D=Dinner

Day 1	Arrive on international flight. Drive 1 hour to <a href="#">Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge</a> for 2 nights	D only
Day 2	Visit Arusha National Park - 2nd night at Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge.	B,L,D
Days 3 & 4	Drive to Ngorongoro for 2 nights at <a href="#">Ngorongoro Crater Lodge</a> or <a href="#">Entamanu Camp</a>	B,L,D
Days 5-7	Drive to Maasai tribal area for 3 nights at <a href="#">Seasonal Luxury Tented Camp</a> ,	B,L,D
Days 8-10	Drive to Serengeti Plains for 3 nights at <a href="#">Seasonal Luxury Tented Camp</a> ,	B,L,D
Day 11	Last day - Day rooms at Ngare Sero Lodge, transfer to international airport and fly home	B,L

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## HIGHLIGHTS

Breathtaking views of Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru at dusk. Getting close to game on foot in Arusha National park. Amazing wildlife densities in Ngorongoro Crater. The great migration: thousands upon thousands of lowing wildebeest and braying zebra scattered across the vast ocean-like plains. The incredible variety of scenery, sheer size of the Serengeti and an insight into the Maasai tribal way of life.

## ACTIVITIES

Activities shown *in italics* may be possible if requested before finalizing the itinerary, and with prior planning.

**Arusha** - (if there is time) *shopping, massages (extra cost), visiting markets or schools*

**Ngorongoro Crater** - game drive in Ngorongoro Crater, *walks and cultural visits may be possible outside the Crater if staying in a tented camp.*

**Maasai area of the Serengeti Plains** - game drives, walks (minimum age 12), school visits, shopping for crafts, Maasai homestead visit, *fly camp (minimum age 12).*

**Central Serengeti Plains** - game drives, *Olduvai Gorge visit if on the way*

## CLIMATE

Northern Tanzania is only 250-400kms (155-250mi) from the Equator. This means that altitude is a more significant influence on temperatures than time of year. Overall the climate is very mild and comfortable.

During the green season months temperatures are approximately as follows:-

**Arusha** - 1,400m a.s.l. (4,590 feet); min of about 14°C (57°F) and max of about 29°C (84°F).

**Lake Manyara** - 960m (3,150 feet) a.s.l., min of about 17°C (63°F), and a max of about 32°C (90°F).

**Ngorongoro Crater Rim** - 2,200m (7,200 feet) - min of about 14°C (57°F) and max of about 28°C (82°F).

**Serengeti** -1,600-2,000m (5,250-6,560 ft) a.s.l. - min of about 15°C (59°F), and a max of about 29°C (84°F).

## FLIGHTS TO / FROM TANZANIA

**International flights** - We do not book international flights. You should fly to and from Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), which is around 1 hour drive from Arusha.

KLM departs daily from Amsterdam around 10am and flies direct to JRO, arriving around 8pm. The return flight departs around 10pm, stops in Dar-es-Salaam, and arrives in Amsterdam around 7am the next morning.

Qatar Airways departs daily at about 9am from Doha (Qatar) and arrives in Kilimanjaro Airport between 2:30pm and 4:30pm. The return flight departs JRO between 3:30pm and 5:30pm and arrives in Doha at 10:40pm (the arrival and departure times vary according to whether or not it stops on the way).

Emirates/Fly Dubai and Ethiopian Airlines can be good options. Turkish Airlines also fly direct to Kilimanjaro, although their arrival and departure times are not so convenient. Swiss Air and several other airlines have flights into Dar es Salaam. British Airways, Kenya Airways and others fly into Nairobi, Kenya. The best connections to/from the USA are KLM (SkyTeam/Delta partner) & Qatar/Fly Dubai (OneWorld).

**Regional flights** - Regional flights within Tanzania will be quoted depending on the routing required, and are not included in the safari cost.

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

This highly varied safari can be tailored to suit almost any group's needs, and is excellent for children from 8 years upwards. Young children should share the tent/room with an adult, and may not be allowed to participate in some activities such as bush walks or fly camping. If there are any special needs (such as elderly people, or young children), it is crucial that we are informed before designing the itinerary for you, as these could influence our choice of lodges or places recommended. We can tailor this itinerary to most groups. For instance, we can maximize wildlife viewing and photographic opportunities, or offer a blend of activities, including opportunities for cultural interaction and to be more active.

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## ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK

Due to its proximity to renowned Ngorongoro Crater and Mt Kilimanjaro, Arusha National Park is often overlooked. However this park of only 552 km<sup>2</sup> (213 mi<sup>2</sup>) has astounding variety of landscapes and scenery, substantially different to the habitats encountered in other places on a safari in Tanzania.



The park comprises several soda lakes, each with different consistencies of salts, algae and other organisms, resulting in different hues. Much of the park is covered in dense montane forest, an ideal habitat for primates such as olive baboon, blue monkey and black and white colobus monkey) and many of the forest antelope - bushbuck, red duiker and the tiny suni. The forest glades are popular with Cape buffalo, waterbuck, warthog, zebra and giraffe.



Most dramatic are its volcanic mountains, Ngurdotu Crater and massive Mount Meru, Africa's fifth highest mountain at 4,566m (14,980ft), which towers above the forest, its upper reaches often hidden in cloud.

Here it is possible to go for game drives, for short walks with an armed ranger or do canoe activities (the last 2 activities must be arranged when planning your safari). On clear days we have excellent views of Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro.



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## NGARESERO MOUNTAIN LODGE

[Ngare Sero](#) is one of the oldest family lodges in East Africa. It is set in lush gardens with crystal clear lakes in a 50-acre forest reserve on the slopes of Mt Meru. The original lodge was a farmhouse built by German colonist August Leue in 1905. The farm changed hands after the First World War, and fell into disrepair until engineer Mike Leach and his wife Gisela discovered and bought it in 1974, transforming it into a boutique lodge.



The lodge is now run by their son, Tim and his wife. It offers 10 garden rooms, 3 suites in the main house and a separate Farm cottage. There is a trout lake in front of the main house and several species of monkey inhabit the forest. At night bushbabies cry and nightjars rhythmically call. In the morning we are woken by the calls of doves and the smell of fresh roasted coffee.

Ngaresero is only a 40 minute drive from Kilimanjaro Airport, a 15-20-minute drive from the Arusha National Park entrance gate, and a 1-hour drive from Arusha Town and airport.

**ACTIVITIES** (*those in italics should be requested before the safari*) Game drive and/or walk in Arusha National Park, 30m lap pool, boating on the lake, croquet, trout farm visit, *cultural visit to a market, homestead or school. Mountain biking, horse riding and private yoga classes are available at extra cost.*



**COMMUNICATION** - There is a phone at reception, cellphone coverage and wifi in the main areas.

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## NGORONGORO CRATER

Even without wildlife, the vast 180 km<sup>2</sup> (100 m<sup>2</sup>) Ngorongoro Crater, with its backdrop of extinct volcanos, would be amazing. However, the Crater is home to over 25,000 ungulates, and is said to have the highest density of large mammalian predators on Earth. This is undoubtedly the best place in Tanzania to view black rhino as well as large prides of lion, including magnificent black-maned males. It is also home to huge herds of wildebeest, zebra, Thomson's gazelle and other plains game. An alkaline lake in the floor of the Crater provides a habitat for colourful flamingo and a variety of other water birds.



Professor Bernard Grzimek best described the Ngorongoro Crater in his book, *The Serengeti Shall not Die*. He said, "It is impossible to give a fair description of the size and beauty of the Crater, for there is nothing with which one can compare it. It is one of the Wonders of the World."

We descend more than 2,000 feet on steep tracks cut into the crater wall to reach the open plains of the Crater floor for our game drive.

We can choose to stay in one of two very different places.

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## NGORONGORO CRATER LODGE

Ngorongoro Crater Lodge is one of the most luxurious lodges in Africa, situated on the Crater rim with outstanding views, and conveniently located between the two one-way tracks (the Seneto Descent and the Leraï ascent) on the southern rim of the Crater.



The lodge has only 30 intimate cottages, divided into 3 separate sections or *camps*. Each camp has its own camp manager, kitchen, dining room and lounge. The lodge shop and main offices are conveniently located in between the three camps. Interestingly there is no swimming pool here, partly due to the cool temperatures at 2,300m (7,500 ft). The cottages are built on timber platforms, offering spectacular views from the deck of your room with the Crater spread out below. Often zebras or buffaloes are seen grazing in front.

In the late afternoon, after a wildlife-packed game drive in the Crater, you can go for a short walk around the lodge grounds (keeping an eye out for any large mammals), and visit the shop. While enjoying the view you can sit beside the fireplace and sip a glass of sherry, soak in a hot bathtub, or request a massage. Later you can socialize in the elaborate lounge sipping your favorite cocktail. At night you snuggle in crisp linen bedclothes warmed by an electric blanket.



**ACTIVITIES** (*If in italics it should be requested before the safari*) 1 game drive in the Crater, picnic breakfast or lunch, bird walk in lodge grounds, massages (extra cost), *Maasai cultural activity*.

**COMMUNICATION** - Rooms have land line phones for making and receiving calls. There is limited cellphone reception. WiFi is available in guest rooms but not in the main areas.

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## ENTAMANU NGORONGORO CAMP

Entamanu Camp is tucked in an acacia forest on the Ngorongoro Crater rim at 2,200m (7,200ft), offering views eastwards and into the Crater below. This traditional-style tented camp, built on wooden decks, blends Maasai furnishings of cow and sheep-skin rugs and covers, beaded lampshades, and locally-made wicker armchairs with modern simplicity - and wonderful gas heaters that are a blessing at this altitude!



There are actually two camps - the main 7-room Entamanu Ngorongoro, and its smaller 4-room sister camp, Entamanu Private. The two have almost identical facilities. The main area of Entamanu Ngorongoro comprises one long tented structure on a wooden deck, with two dining rooms and a veranda at one end, and two lounges at the other, with a bar in between. The seven wood and canvas cabins, including two family units, have a large bedroom with a king-size double or two twin beds. The eastern wall consists of canvas, mosquito netting and heavy, clear plastic sheets, so the views can be enjoyed regardless of the temperature.

The rooms are adorned with cow-skin rugs, a writing desk, a charging unit for computers, cameras, etc and a gas heater. The en suite bathroom has twin wash-basins, wardrobe, shower, and flush toilet.

**ACTIVITIES** (*If in italics it should be requested before the safari*) 1 game drive in the Crater, picnic breakfast or lunch, bush walks near camp (minimum age 12 years), Maasai village visit, *Olduvai Gorge visit, local school visit.*



**COMMUNICATION** - There is limited cellphone reception. There is limited wifi in the main area.

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## SERENGETI SEASONAL TENTED CAMP, MASAI TRIBAL AREA

From December to May this seasonal luxury camp is situated along the Kakesio River just inside the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, in a remote corner of the Serengeti ecosystem. It is located on the border of the woodlands and plains, which is perfect for taking advantage of both habitats. Giraffe and impala prefer the woodland habitats, and elephants and wild dogs pass through there too. The migratory herds prefer the Plains if there has been rain, and are often close to camp.



The camp is not far from Maasai bomas (villages), providing plenty of opportunity for cultural interaction. It is only about a ½ hour drive from the Rift Valley escarpment and its astounding views over Lake Eyasi. In this remote area we have the freedom to enjoy bush walks with the Dorobo and Hadzabe hunter-gatherer trackers and impromptu bush picnics.



The camp comprises six Meru tents, including two family suites. Each tent has a main bedroom area with large beds and ample shelf space for clothes, adorned with tasteful local fabrics and oriental rugs. There is a veranda and en suite bathroom with plumbed hot and cold water washbasin, flush loo and safari-style bucket shower. The family suites are 2 normal tents joined together by a sitting area. Camp has 240 volt electricity.

**ACTIVITIES** - Game drives, bush walks, Masai cultural activities. The camp also has a “fly camp” where you may set off on foot with an armed ranger, and experience a night out in the wilds.

**COMMUNICATION** - This is a true bush camp with no cellphone reception and no internet connection!



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## SEASONAL TENTED CAMP, SOUTHERN SERENGETI PLAINS



Serian Kusini Camp is situated in the southern Serengeti Plains inside the Serengeti National Park, on the edge of the woodland and the southern Plains. Here the Plains are characterised by vast grasslands, interspersed with depressions, often with salt lakes or marshland in the lowest points. Its location bordering the woodlands and the plains is perfect for taking advantage of both habitats.

Wildlife movements depend largely on availability of lush grasses and water, and vary considerably in this area. Depending on the amount of recent rainfall, one habitat may be more productive in encountering game than another. Generally when it has rained a lot, the wildlife spreads out on the Serengeti Plains. When they dry up, many species follow water and nutritious grasses, often being forced into the woodland areas where there is good cover for predators.

The luxury camp comprises six Meru tents including two family tents, each with a veranda, main bedroom area adorned with tasteful local fabric and oriental rugs, with large beds and ample shelf space for your clothes, and an en suite bathroom area. The bathroom has plumbed hot and cold water washbasin, a flush loo, and a safari style bucket shower. There is 240volt electricity available in the camp.

**ACTIVITIES** - Game drives and picnic breakfasts.

**COMMUNICATION** - This is a true bush camp with no cellphone reception and no internet connection!

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## COST OF THE ABOVE 11-DAY SAFARI JANUARY - MARCH 2020 & DECEMBER 2020

### 1. SAFARI COST with A Step Ahead professional guide and private vehicle(s) throughout

#### With Entamanu Camp in Ngorongoro - Per person - based on 2 people sharing each tent/room

Number of guests	4	6	8	10 or 12
With shared camp/lodge throughout	\$15,900	\$15,250	\$14,200	\$13,650

OR

#### With Ngorongoro Crater Lodge in Ngorongoro - Per person - based on 2 people sharing each tent/room

Number of guests	4	6	8	10 or 12
With shared camp/lodge throughout	\$17,600	\$16,850	\$15,800	\$15,200

### 2. PLUS FLIGHT - (approximate cost only due to frequent changes in fuel costs and taxes)

#### **EITHER - SCHEDULED FLIGHT** Serengeti to Arusha or Kilimanjaro - **Approximately US\$380 per person**

Scheduled flights leave at specific times from certain airstrips. We have to be at the airstrip ½ hour before departure. The aircraft will not wait for any latecomers. The flight might include stops to pick up and drop off other passengers on the way to our destination. Flights are costed per person.

#### **OR - PRIVATE CHARTER** Serengeti to Arusha or Kilimanjaro

For one 9-passenger capacity Cessna 208 or similar - **Approximately USD 4,500 for the aircraft**

Charter flights leave from the airstrip of choice (usually the nearest) and at the time requested upon booking. Flight are costed per aircraft, so **for a group of 10 or more TWO aircraft are required.**

#### Notes:

- Children:** There are substantial child discounts available. If you will have children in your group, please let us know their ages and we can do a specific costing to include all child discounts.
- Exclusive camps:** We can book camps on exclusive basis, just for your group. Price on request.
- Park Fees:** Rates may increase if Tanzanian park entry, concession and other fees are increased.
- Extensions:** If you would like a longer safari we can extend by adding 2 nights at Lake Manyara or Tarangire National Parks, or at one of the deluxe Singita Grumeti Reserves properties. Beach extensions to Zanzibar or Pemba Island are possible - or visits to Rwanda or Uganda to track wild mountain gorillas. Children must be over 15 years of age to track gorillas.

**Included in the above safari cost:** Services of a professional *A Step Ahead* guide throughout the safari; services of experienced regional expert guides driving and accompanying the *A Step Ahead* guide; accommodation in best available twin-bedded tent/room according to the meal indication on the itinerary; services of a fully trained crew; laundry service from Day 2 to Day 10 when not a move day (not ladies underwear); ground transport in customized 4 wheel drive vehicles while on safari (from leaving Arusha to leaving the Serengeti); all park entry and camping fees; soft and alcoholic drinks (except premium brands); walking safaris where applicable; Flying Doctor membership (covers air evacuation to Nairobi Hospital in an emergency); transfers to/from the hotel and the airport on the first and last days.

**Not included in the above safari cost:** Items of a personal nature (e.g. visas, airport taxes, telephone or fax services, internet services etc.); hot-air balloon flights; premium brand alcoholic drinks, breakfast on the first day; dinner and any drinks or room extras on the last day; massages and spa treatments if available; medical or hospitalization costs in the event of illness or emergency; any kind of insurance; international flights; any regional flights (please see separate cost above); gratuities.

PLEASE SEE OUR **TERMS & CONDITIONS (2020)** DOCUMENT FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON TERMS AND INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

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### A STEP AHEAD GUIDES

Our guides are keen and passionate bush professionals, who guide safaris because they absolutely love being in nature and helping their guests understand the world they cherish. They are mostly all-rounders, expert at the many varied fields a guide should know about, and are not limited to one field. They have experience traveling and being in the bush in many different countries in Africa and so are able to offer a broad view on most things. They are involved in designing custom itineraries for our guests. They compliment and work well with the locally based guides in the various countries or camps, and they ensure continuity and are good at adding special touches to a safari to make sure you have an amazing experience. Invariably once on safari with one of our *A Step Ahead* professional guides, our guests will recommend no other to their friends back home! That is the greatest tribute they give them. Most of our *A Step Ahead* safaris are led by one of our guides.



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